

BOOK NOTICES

CHARLES M. ALLEN, DAWN ALLEN NEWMAN, and HARRY H. WINTERS. 2002. **Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Louisiana.** (ISBN 0-9718625-0-8, pbk). Allen's Native Ventures, LLC, 5070 Hwy 399, Pitkin, LA 70656, U.S.A. (Orders: 337-328-2252, native@camtel.net). Price not given, 333 pp, numerous b/w line drawings, 3 maps, 5 1/2" × 8 1/2".

This book provides information on 414 species that are native and naturalized and, in a number of cases, cultivated and persisting. The entries are listed alphabetically (by scientific name, sans author) by genus and species. A long paragraph on each of the species gives common names, name derivations, morphological features, and medicinal, economic, historical, and wildlife uses. The last sentence of each paragraph notes the distribution in Louisiana: e.g., "It is widely distributed throughout the state but more commonly in sandy soil (FAC) along the coast with reports from 18 parishes" (*Cissus trifoliata*); "In swamps, edges of lakes, ponds and other water bodies (OBL) with current reports from 46 parishes" (*Nyssa aquatica*); "Widely cultivated and escaping and forming dense thickets; this species is a serious pest in many parts of the state (FAC)" (*Ligustrum sinense*); "The current records, mostly from cultivated plants, include seven parishes" (*Photinia serratifolia*); "Planted throughout the state (FACU) as an ornamental with some recent interest in its wood. The current records include 14 parishes" (*Paulownia tomentosa*). Apart from the enumeration of which woody species occur in the state and their reproductive status, perhaps the most useful feature of the book is the line drawing for each species, drawn from a range of previously published sources. Identification keys are not provided but 8 'tables' in the introductory material list genera with distinctive characters such as strong odor, compound leaves, opposite or whorled leaves, etc. This compilation will serve good use as a reference in company with an identification manual and range maps.—Guy L. Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX, 76102-4060, U.S.A.

JOHN GRAVES, Photos by WYMAN MEINZER. 2002. **Texas Rivers.** ISBN 1-885696-38-8, hbk.) University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. (Orders 800252-3206 512-471-4032, 800-687-6046 fax)) \$39.95, 144 pp. 80 color photos, 11" × 11".

If *Texas Rivers* were only a picture book it would be an outstanding work. The photographs by Wyman Meinzer are breathtakingly beautiful. Panoramas and close-ups alike are full of radiant color and telling detail. Each captures the essence of the particular area through which the river flows.

The text by John Graves is also complete in itself, a testament to the beauty and diversity and total utility of Texas rivers. He touches on all aspects of riverine territories from their archeology, botany, climate, economy through the alphabet of scientific studies to zoology. It is as if one is taking a leisurely walking tour along the river with a very knowledgeable friend with time to stop to appreciate the great and small wonders of this multifarious land.

Together these two artists have created a very beautiful book, a welcome addition to an library.—Ruth Ginsburg, Fort Worth, Texas.